

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of image forming means each
including:
5 an image bearing member; and
developing means for developing an
electrostatic image formed on the image bearing
member by use of toner, the developing means being
capable of collecting residual toner on the image
10 bearing member; and
a transfer member provided to be able to
contact the plurality of image bearing members, the
transfer member being made of a resin material,
wherein the toner used in at least one of the
15 plurality of developing means contains a toner
particle group with a particle size of 12.7 μm or
more, a ratio of the toner particle group to the
entire toner being 1.0% or less in a weight particle
size distribution.
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2. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the toner contains the toner
particle group with the particle size of 12.7 μm or
more, a ratio of the toner particle group to the
25 entire toner being 0.8% or less in the weight
particle size distribution.

3. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the developing means is capable of
performing a collecting operation for collecting the
residual toner on the image bearing member
5 simultaneously with a developing operation.

4. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein:
the transfer member is an intermediate
10 transferring member onto which a toner image is
transferred from each of the plurality of image
bearing members; and
the toner image on the intermediate
transferring member is transferred onto a transfer
15 material.

5. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 4, further comprising transfer means for
transferring the toner image onto the intermediate
20 transferring member from each of the plurality of
image bearing members.

6. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein provided that a time required for
25 the intermediate transferring member to move from a
certain transfer position to a next transfer position
is represented as T, and a charge relaxation time

required for a potential of the intermediate transferring member charged at a potential V to be reduced to V/e (e is a base of natural logarithm) is represented as τ , $\tau \leq T$ is satisfied.

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7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 10 μA or less.

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8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 8 μA or less.

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9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a cleaning member for cleaning the residual toner on the intermediate transferring member,

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wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is larger in a transfer position of one of the plurality of image forming means which first transfers the toner image onto the intermediate transferring member than in a transfer position of another of the plurality of image forming means.

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10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the toner image in a different color is formed in each of the plurality of image forming

means.

11. An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the toner has a mean
5 particle size of 5 to 10 μm .

12. An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the toner has a mean
particle size of 6 to 9 μm .